

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

President's Corner

**Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX,
RARS President**

Did you know this about RARS?

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS), Raleigh, NC:

- Established in 1969; currently the largest amateur radio club in NC (~250 members).
- Provides opportunities for members to participate in activities including ARES/RACES/public service; club repeaters; license classes and VE testing; all modes of HF/VHF/UHF operation; Field Day; home-brew and vintage equipment; awards; special events; SWL/scanning; club meetings and hamfests.
- Communicates with members and interested hams via www.rars.org, *Exciter* newsletter, nightly nets, public and members-only mailing lists.

Public Service:

- Encourages member participation in local ARES and SKYWARN. Club repeaters are always available for emergency use.

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Next RARS Meeting: February 1

7:30 PM: "Awards and Wallpaper" by Jeff Wittich AC4ZO. We'll also have VE testing this night. For details about VE testing, please see page 3.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

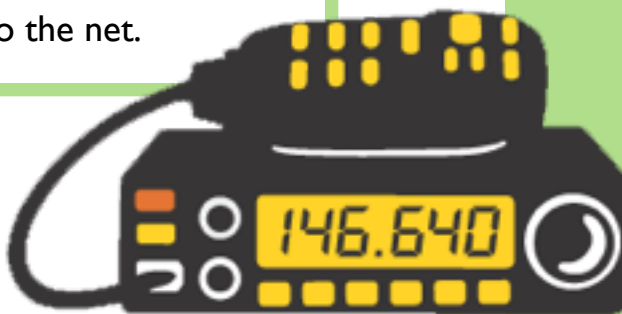
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

President's Corner (continued from page 1)

- RARS coordinates communications support for several charitable organization events and encourages members to support others. RARS participated in 17 events in 2010 including MS Society and ADA bike tours, Raleigh Marathon, Autism Walk, and Easter Seal walk.
- 14 RARS members in ARRL Governance and Field Organization positions. Many were licensed through RARS classes.

Education:

- 9 club meeting programs per year review technical and operational aspects of radio.
- Sponsored 9 Technician and 1 General licensing classes between 2006-2010, resulting in 121 new licensed hams.
- Organized "Tune in the World Day" at end of classes, demonstrating, explaining and operating equipment for HF and VHF/UHF on many modes.
- Training hams for public service via our nets.
- Youth activities:
 - ▶ ARRL Big Project: Donated ARRL book set and general use funds to Powell Elementary School; assisted with class projects, on-air Q&A with students.
 - ▶ Jamboree on the Air (JOTA): RARS members Rod KI4LSN and Christine KI4MMV set up stations and introduced Boy Scouts to amateur radio at several recent, local JOTA events.
 - ▶ Youth Lounge at RARSfest: meeting area, activities, prizes for young hams and non-hams.

Advocacy:

- RARS members N4TAB and KN4AQ participated in investigation of nearby BPL demonstration site, documenting and publicizing flaws in the system (2005). Both filed extensive comments with the FCC.
- Presentation on amateur radio at county emergency planning conference entitled, "Amateur radio: when all else fails" by KN4AQ.
- Donations were made to ARRL (Spectrum Defense Fund, Diamond Terrace, BPL fund, Ham Aid Fund, Contest Plaques), AMSAT, Triangle Radio Reading Service, Handi-Hams, Amateur Radio Newline, Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network.

Membership Activities:

- Three meetings per month: Main club meeting, dinner, and Board of Directors.
- Annual RARSfest hamfest and ARRL NC State Convention. Expecting >1600 attendees; VE testing; Forums; Special Events Station N4C; hands-on projects; Youth Lounge; and, ARRL Division and Section staff meetings.

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President's Corner (continued from previous page)

- Field Day: average of 50 members each year; scoring 1st, 8A (2010); 1st, 7A (2009); and, 2nd, 7A (2008). Everyone encouraged to operate. GOTA operation each year.

This is what I learned about RARS during preparation of the forms and supporting documents, which were sent in support of our nomination of RARS as Club of the Year at the 2011 Dayton Hamvention. The assistance of Gary KN4AQ (which included editing of the bullet point list above), John AI4RT, Chuck K4HF, Greg KE4PAX, Virginia NC4VA, Cliff W4FT, Bob K4RLC, Mary KG4OQA, Charles WB4DCM, Hank K4HM, CJ KG4OBQ, and Ken KI4OTO during preparation of the nomination is gratefully acknowledged. Regardless of the outcome, one should be proud of the accomplishments of our 42 year-old amateur radio club. RARS is still active and moving forward! And, it depends on the participation of its members in all RARS events and projects!

With regard to member participation, RARSfest needs volunteers, particularly during set-up on Friday, April 22 and an individual to head up the Talk-In Station. Please contact John AI4RT if you can help out. David KF4VXJ is working on donations and in-kind services for Field Day and he needs volunteers to help with the logistics of that project. Please contact David KF4VXJ or Bob W4TTX if you can provide assistance with Field Day, June 25-26, 2011.

Finally, please note that we are trying to get the *Exciter* completed earlier each month. This will allow time for members to read it prior to the upcoming club meeting, including those individuals that rely on mail delivery of the *Exciter*.

73, Karl W4CHX

February Birthdays

Maurry	WW4MC	2/2
Danny	KD4RAA	2/2
Sue	W2GHK	2/2
Selene	KG4RMT	2/3
LOS	AF0AA	2/3
Lillian	KC4AYH	2/4
Grady	KJ4RZU	2/5
Art	W2JNW	2/6
Larry	N4LEW	2/7
Bill	KN4IX	2/8
Carl	KU4HM	2/9
Buddy	KD4PCD	2/10
Harriette	KF4SER	2/10
Dennis	AJ4HK	2/13
Tom	N4TL	2/13
Mike	K1MW	2/14
Jim	KB2IYS	2/16
Dick	WW4NC	2/16
Warren	WM2Z	2/18
Don	NJ2E	2/18
Howard	N4KYW	2/19
Joe	N1LVN	2/21
Jonathan	KJ4PZR	2/22
Charlie	WA3UTC	2/24
Joe	W4TTO	2/25
Bob	WX4MMM	2/26
Hans	W2UF	2/27
Mary	KG4OQA	2/28

New RARS Members

Mike Grissom	KG4LYS
Wade Jensen, Jr.	KG4KAH

Upcoming Hamfests

2/5	FrostFest (VA State Convention) Richmond, VA http://www.rats.net/
2/5	South Carolina State Convention Ladson, SC http://www.wa4usn.org/
2/11- 2/13	Orlando HamCation & Comp. Show Orlando, FL http://www.hamcation.com/
2/26	Annual Dalton ARC Hamfest Dalton, GA http://s2.webstarts.com/w4drc
2/27	WinterFest Annandale, VA http://www.viennawireless.org/

December 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 392
Traffic: 29/25
Minutes: 345
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 65
Minutes: 250
Sessions: 10

November 16, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

Present: Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, John Snellen AI4RT, Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Don Downs WA4AVU, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Greg Semster KE4PAX, Charles Swindell WB4DCM, and one guest Jack Foster N6UYB.

Apologies and/or reports provided: Justin AJ4MJ, Liz KO4CK, Joe WA4GIR, and Virginia NC4VA

- 1) Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM. Karl W4CHX welcomed newly elected RARS members, Jack Foster N6UYB, CJ Orr KJ4OBQ, and Bob Starkenburg W4TTX.
- 2) Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): the minutes of the October 19, 2010 meeting of the RARS Board were approved as amended.
- 3) Vice President (Justin AJ4MJ): No report.
- 4) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS currently has 255 members. We have made a donation to TRRS, paid for our storage unit, paid for our web page, filed our tax returns, and received a donation from Mrs. Lena Reinhardt. If any RARS member has questions about the Treasurer's report, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX.
- 5) Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): No report.
- 6) Committee reports:
 - a) Public Service Director (John AI4RT): The next public service event will be "Making Room for Turkey" on November 21 at Briar Creek, Raleigh. The Fuquay-Varina Christmas parade will be on December 5.
 - b) Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): Gary did not have a specific report but did comment that a photo in the December QST was of RARS Field Day.
 - c) Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): On behalf of Virginia NC4VA, Chuck K4HF indicated that the Technician Class will be finishing up on Saturday, November 20. They have four participants.
 - d) Field Day Chair (Mike WA4BPJ): No report.

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- e) FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): The SERA repeater registration form has been submitted. The 146.64 repeater was closed to voice communications during the marathon to allow for packet.
 - f) RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): The next RARSFest meeting will be on Monday, January 24, 2011. John still needs volunteers to head up contesting, youth lounge, and the special events station.
 - g) Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): No report.
 - h) Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
 - i) Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): No report.
 - j) ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): Chuck did not have a report. However, there ensued a discussion about vanity calls, the FCC's move to limit the number that a club can have, and should RARS obtain another before the rules change. Gary KN4AQ moved that RARS procure another vanity call and do the research at a later time. Motion was seconded by Don WA4AVU. Motion passed.
 - k) At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.
 - l) At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.
 - m) At-Large Director (Steve KJ4BX): No report.
 - n) W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.
 - o) RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): According to her email communication, 2 individuals took licensing examinations at the November RARS general membership meeting; one person passed the Amateur Extra Class license and the other person passed the Technician Class license. The RARSVE team will be administering licensing tests on Saturday, November 20th for the Technician class licensing class; and, on Sunday, November 21 at JARSFest.
- 7) Old Business:
- a) Donations of software to RARS (Justin AJ4MJ): According to his email message, the donated software offer to RARS has "hit a snag". Justin AJ4MJ will be communicating with Chuck K4HF and Greg KE4PAX to discuss this matter.
 - b) Exciter improvements: The deadline for the Exciter is normally the Friday following the RARS Board meeting. Hank K4HM submitted an article for the November Exciter.
 - c) Nominating Committee (Chuck K4HF): No report.
- 8) New Business:
- a) Plans for RARS Board meeting in December: A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Board not to meet during the month of December.
 - b) Entry for Club of the Year Award, Dayton Hamvention 2011: Karl W4CHX recommended that RARS apply for this award. Several copies of the application were distributed and discussed. The deadline for application is January 15, 2011. A motion was made by Charlie WB4DCM to affirm that

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RARS submit an application for Dayton Hamvention Club Award 2011. Motion was seconded by Ken K14OTO. Motion was approved. Ken K14OTO, John A14RT, Gary KN4AQ, and Karl W4CHX will form a committee to complete and submit the application.

9) Board member comments:

- a) Hank K4HM was unsure how our VE's wanted to handle announcements about the exams. It was decided that he would put a note on the RARS web page.
- b) Selene KG4RMT inquired if all was in order for the RARS Christmas party. Members need to be advised to bring snacks to share. Karl W4CHX will send an email.

10) Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

January 4, 2011 RARS Meeting Minutes

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

- 1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by Karl W4CHX. All members and visitors were welcomed to the meeting.
- 2) Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting of December 7, 2010 were approved as written.
- 3) Vice President's report (C J Orr KJ4OBQ): VP C.J. KJ4OBQ announced that the February program would be "Awards & Wallpaper" presented by Jeff Wittich AC4ZO.
- 4) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): The Treasurer was not present.
- 5) Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
 - a) RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (1/11/11), 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 2909 Millbrook Rd (at the corner of Capital Blvd and Millbrook Rd), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (11th) for any update information. Jack N6UYB is looking into possibly moving the dinner back to the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave.
 - b) RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (1/18/11), 7:00PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Rd, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer. There was no Board meeting in the month of December.
 - c) After meeting gathering: Depending on the time of the program completion: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).
 - d) Guests: Dan Nagle K14ZBW and Eugene Nagy KD8HSU.

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- 6) Reports from RARS Board members and others:
- a) Justin AJ4MJ announced that someone left a Tupperware bowl at the December meeting.
 - b) Jeff AC4ZO announced that RARS now has an additional club call. It is N4RAL. The FCC is going to limit clubs to one vanity call so we jumped in and acquired this call.
- 7) Any other business:
- a) Dave Crawford KF4VXJ announced that for the 2010 Field Day, he was able to acquire donations of supplies saving RARS money. He is now looking for donations for the 2011 Field Day.
- 8) Drawing: The winners were Ashby W5PGX and Hank K4HM.
- 9) Program: VP C. J. KJ4OBQ introduced our guest speaker, Robert German, KB4RGC and his topic for the evening, "Echolink—What can it do for you." Following his initial presentation and with some assistance, a demonstration of Echolink was presented.
- 10) Don Herring KJ4DNI made brief comments thanking RARS for its support following the death of his father, George Herring.
- 11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM by Karl W4CHX.
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Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

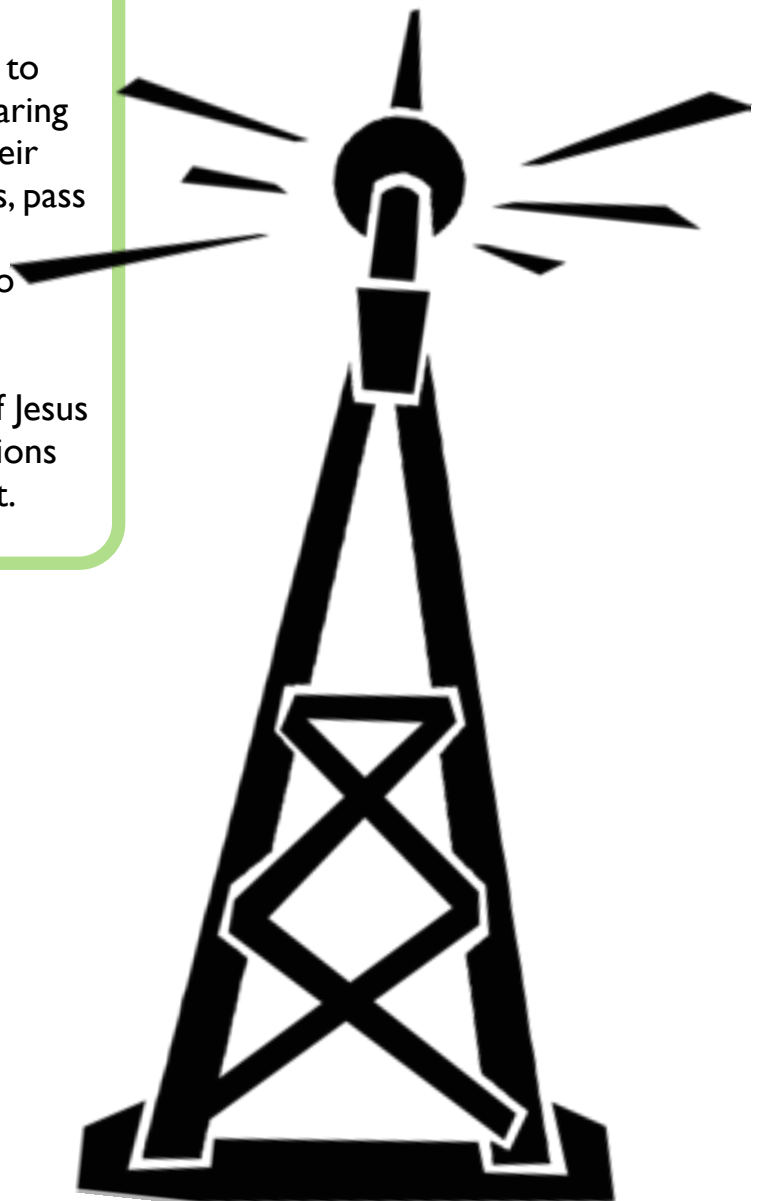
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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